Pathways to the Major
Perhaps the most frequent question asked of beginning college students is “What’s your major?” Although many students believe they have decided their major before they begin college, as many as 80 percent either do not know what their major is or will change majors during their first year of college. The exploratory designation at Thiel College offers students who are uncertain about their major(s) the opportunity to work closely with an academic adviser and set out on a path to discover which major best fits their interests, values and skills.

Curriculum Highlights
When you begin your college years as an exploratory student, you will be guided to select one of Thiel’s five umbrella areas: Humanities/Fine & Performing Arts, STEM, Social Sciences, Business or Education. You will meet regularly with a specially trained adviser in the umbrella area throughout your first year. The adviser will work individually with you to facilitate your major selection—utilizing instruments that assess your skills, values and personal interests. Exploratory advisers will work closely with the Office of Career Services to involve you in intentional explorations of career paths and allow you to select experiential learning activities to enhance your major search (shadowing, internships, co-ops, etc).

Special Features
By beginning your college career as an exploratory major, you’ll be able to:
• Receive personal attention from a faculty adviser who has experience and training in major discernment.
• Focus individually and in group settings on defining your values, skills and interests to help define your choice of major and career pathways.
• Work closely with the Career Services Office to investigate experiential learning opportunities that will help shape your career goals:
  — Shadow a professional in a career that interests you.
  — Conduct an informational interview with a professional in a career that interests you.
  — Begin cooperative education experiences in the second semester of your freshman year.
  — Use specialized software to explore multiple careers

Career and Graduate School Outlook
The ultimate goal of the exploratory advising program is to guide you to the choice of major that is the best fit. Once you have decided on a major (or majors), all of the opportunities for graduate education or career placement associated with that field are available to you.

Contact Information
Dr. Arthur White, Professor of Philosophy • awhite@thiel.edu • 724-589-2091
800-24-THIEL • 724-589-2345 • admissions@thiel.edu
75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125
Some people may say that a liberal arts education is a waste of time. I couldn’t disagree more. It has helped me so much. I feel like a more well-rounded student. All of my classes have not only benefitted my knowledge in my discipline, but have also helped me to appreciate all Thiel has to offer.

“I’ve not only learned a lot about my particular field, but I’ve also learned a little about many other fields. I feel prepared to go out into the real world and confident that I can use the knowledge that I’ve obtained from other classes that I’ve taken to solve problems in a more effective way.”

Anna Hart ’15,
North Huntingdon, Pa.
Major: Secondary Education/Mathematics
Clubs and Activities: Zeta Tau Alpha, Lambda Sigma, Thiel Choir, Thiel Activities Board

The liberal arts education at Thiel helped me become a better thinker, communicator and engaged citizen. Professional organizations and employers value individuals who can think clearly, communicate effectively and engage problems with a distinct awareness about the world they inhabit.

Richard Raymond McNeal ’06,
senior library specialist
Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.
Major: Religion and Philosophy
Activities: Baseball and Alpha Chi and Theta Alpha Kappa honoraries

“I am a firm supporter of the benefits of liberal arts education. I approach work projects from a more complete view, and I definitely believe these critical thinking skills came out of my education at Thiel. I didn’t just study art at Thiel—I studied English, philosophy, religion, mathematics, etc. I had a well-rounded collegiate education, and in turn, I am a well-rounded professional.”

Liz Lengyel ’14,
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Major: Environmental Science
Clubs & Activities: Environmental Club, Criminal Justice Club, Habitat for Humanity and Tomcats Inspiring Hope

Go to www.thiel.edu/visit
and schedule your individual academic visit today!